

# NU HOU DALA PAA

NEWS FROM THE HAWAII STATE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION AND THE HONOLULU COIN CLUB

VOL. 19 NO. 56

AUGUST 26, 1999

## THE MOON LANDING 1969

BY CHARLES MATSUDA

Just imagine--it's been 30 years last month on July 20th, 1969 when America's astronauts blasted off and made their first lunar landing. Neil A. Armstrong, and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr. were the first men to land on the moon with their lunar ship, the Eagle, with Michael Collins on the command ship circling the moon. One of the greatest celebration of this century, was televised step by step, from landing to lift-off of the Apollo II. The Honolulu Star Bulletin read "They Did It". President Kennedy's promise of a moon landing by the end of the decade (1960's) became a reality.

In the numismatic world, new coins and medals were struck on the moon landing, such as the reverse of the Eisenhower dollar, which had the adaptation from the official Apollo II insignia designed by Chief Engraver Frank Gasparro from the U.S. Mint. The same design was later placed also on the reverse of the the reduced size dollar honoring Susan B. Anthony. New York sculptor, Ralph J. Menconi honored the first flight with a commemorative medal displaying a relief sculpture of the three astronauts on the obverse and the flight to the moon on the reverse.

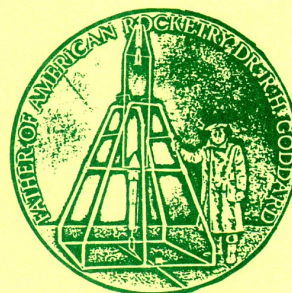
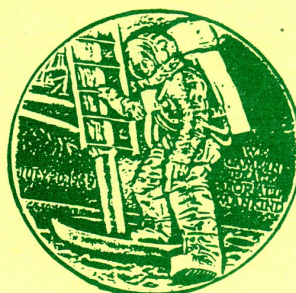
A medal was also struck by the International Numismatic Agency, designed by De Lorengo, with Neil A. Armstrong taking the first giant step on the moon with the title "We Came in Peace for All Mankind", dated July 20, 1969. The reverse of the medal featured Dr. R.H. Goddard, "Father of American Rocketry". The medal was large enough to be a paper weight, about 2.5 inches in diameter with five ounces of silver.

Other news event of the day was the tragic story

at Chappaquiddick, Massachusetts. Senator Edward Kennedy was involved in an accident--his car skidded off a narrow bridge and landed in eight feet of water. The senator's woman companion, Mary Jo Kopechne drowned in the accident. The senator was charged by the police in Edgartown, Massachusetts for leaving the scene of the accident.

Local news was about sports and the Pacific Coast League. Baseball's popular Bo Belinsky won his seventh straight victory against the Vancouver Mounties for the Hawaii Islanders by a score of 6-1 at the Honolulu Stadium in a packed house. The Islanders moved up to second place.

In the local theaters--remember the drive-in theaters? The Royal Sunset, and Waialae drive-in theaters and King theater featured Walt Disney's "Peter Pan" that day. The new Royal theater played "True Grit", with Oscar winner John Wayne and Glen Campbell. A single family, fee simple home sold for about \$62,000. An average new automobile sold for \$5,000 in Hawaii. Hamburgers--special at 99 cents? Well, listen to this. On the average, they sold for 25 cents each and on special, five for a dollar--enough to feed the whole family. A dollar was still a dollar then. But according to Hawaii's Business World, consumer spending was slowing down, due to costs and prices. Wow! If they could see it today. And so it was, just 30 years ago.





# HAWAIIAN STILT

BY IRVING KAM

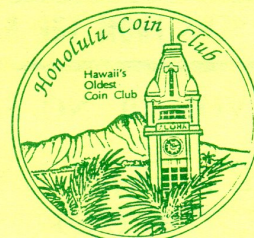
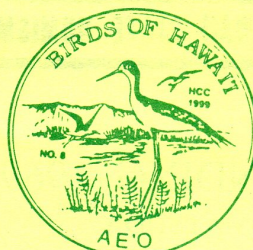
Hawaiian birds are very dependent on the ecosystem in which they evolved and are very susceptible to changes in their environment. Human encroachment and urbanization in the form of civil as well as military development have added to a predicament in which there seem to be very little room for compromise. In the case of Hawaii's waterbirds, five of the six native species that breed in the island's wetland areas are now deemed endangered. Fortunately, many concerned individuals and organizations have triggered civic awareness on issues such as native habitat protection, environmental education, scientific research, and have made great strides in its struggle to preserve Hawaii's rich natural heritage.

One of these endemic waterbirds is the topic of the eighth and final installment to the popular Birds of Hawaii series of medals issued by the Honolulu Coin Club. The Ae'o, or Hawaiian stilt (*Himantopus himantopus knudseni*) is defined as a tall slender wading bird with black coloration on top, a white underside, and average about sixteen inches in length. Studies of color marked birds have proven that the stilts fly from one island to another and that up to World War II, was considered a game bird. Youngsters leave the nest soon after hatching and are not fed by their parents but are led to suitable feeding grounds. Adults display the "broken wing act" to distract any potential predators from the nesting site.

Our club treasurer, Charlie Matsuda, has once again executed a wonderful interpretation of the last addition to the medallic series. Mintage of the one ounce .999 fine silver and bronze pairs is two hundred fifteen sets. The 39 mm medals are packaged with attractively illustrated inserts as well as matching envelopes. They will initially be made available at the club's annual Statehood Day Coin Show in mid August and by mail thereafter.

Sales via the postal system is \$28.00 postpaid/insured and all orders may be directed to: Honolulu Coin Club, P.O. Box 6063, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818.

Aloha! Pau.



## *Maria Theresa*



Maria Theresa of Austria, whose image is portrayed on the Austria Trade Thaler (Dollar), was a very remarkable woman. She was the daughter of Emperor Charles VI and her husband was Francis I, an irresponsible Emperor who left the running of the empire to Maria.

She saved the empire from near bankruptcy and prevented a revolution from the great powers of Europe through hard work, diplomacy and clever feminine wile. While performing her duties running an empire, she also found time to bear and raise sixteen children. One of her daughters was the ill-fated Marie Antoinette of France. The unofficial trade Thaler of the famous Maria Theresa has been restruck since 1781 to modern times at many world mints. The original thalers were struck at Gunzburg Mint. There were restrikes from the mints in Vienna, Prague, Milan, Venice, Gunzburg, London, Paris, Brussels, Leningrad, Rome, Bombay and Florence.

The coins were 28.0668 grams--833-1/2 silver, .7520 oz. actual silver weight.



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## COIN SHOWS - - 1998

BY CRAIG WATANABE

It's interesting to reflect on a chunk of time as more of a trend can be reported. The first half of this year has been a nice steady upward climb, and the summer consummated the whole thing in a nice mini-peak. The two summer conventions in Portland, Oregon, was a nice reminiscence of days gone by. As I reflect, it seems as if the airplane I took there was actually a time machine. The key indicator? Bull market emotion was present. You know, the air where common sense gets a little weak.

Alas, it was temporarily short lived. By the time the September Long Beach convention rolled around, the stock market had taken its two now historically infamous hits. I remember going on the coin trading system to read between the lines of those two days and discovered that the big boys in the market had temporarily reined in the bull. In other words, the desire to buy had shrunk quite noticeably. What was interesting was how the coin market reacted the second time the stock market dropped. Like a person who has had a major illness hit them a second time, the negative effects were more evident. What was also interesting and of concern as well, was how fast the stock market's drop affected the coin market.

So what's ahead? Not wanting to start any guru status, but since you're reading this--here goes. I've been anticipating a major stock market correction. That makes these last two drops in addition to the one in 1987 look like a minor blip on the Richter scale, and I still believe it will happen one day. However, in the last few years we have been shown that successful intervention is possible. One way is by the manipulation of interest rates. Can you name a few others? Also, potentially more catastrophic is the world's economic and governmental stability status. But it seems as if there are still several band aids left in the big box of bailouts and plastic cures. Caveat--there will come a time, I believe, when nothing will work. The thing is from now until then there's much to be done rather than just waiting for it to happen.

When will all this happen? That's a good question I won't really answer. An idea I have is somewhere around the year 2000. You know, the actual changing of the calendar.

So, since we still have some more borrowed time, what shall we do? Well, let's go to the blackboard first. I believe there are two things fueling the rare coin market at this time. Since the stock market is being nice enough to let people take some profits out a bit at a time, there should be decent sums of money coming in from that source until the Big Crash cripples Wall Street long term. The second source of fuel is the once skeptical Y2K survival kit rush that has grown big enough in spite of itself that should snowball until New Year's Eve, 1999. An extra bonus is that both of these sources are virtually non related. One stopping should not affect the other. Finally, as long as this dance continues, opposite ends of the market are being fueled; quality coins as well as bullion related items.

What could make this coin market even more exciting is if you added someone like Bill Gates or even one percent of that to the dance. For those in the historical know of the business, the name of Iraj Sayah come to mind.

I believe we can continue to participate cautiously, but with more confidence than before. First of all, with or without the Y2K scare, it wouldn't hurt to have a little 90% silver and/or some gold or silver American Eagles on hand. How much? Let's put it this way. The only way it would do any of us any good is in case of total governmental collapse. You figure the rest. How about rare and/or high quality expensive rare coins? Always be selective. Obtain the best and/or rarest you can afford with the thought that you may own them for awhile should the stock market shrivel up for a long time. But no matter what happens, they will always be rare and/or the best. Wherever the market is, in time they will always be at the top end of that market. In ending this, I'd like to put a little water on the glowing coals: Never borrow money or leverage or spend funds you will be needing in the near future. Bad timed

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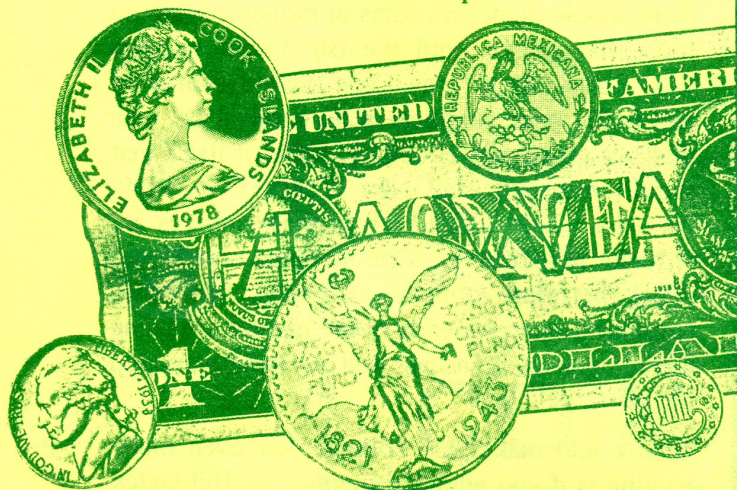


## COIN SHOWS 1998

Continued from Page 3

selling could lose you more than you ever dreamed.

As a dealer, I have less of a choice. I must remain on the way up or down. However, like most of us in these uncertain times, even dealers are attempting to look out for themselves as evidenced during the immediate times following the last two stock market drops.



## A Coin and A Marathon



During the year 490 B.C., the Persians, after conquering the Lydians, headed to overthrow Greece. They assembled on the plains of Marathon and fought a bloody battle against the Athenians of Greece under a full moon. Finally the battle was won by the Athenians.

The Athenians symbolized the battle on a Tetradrachma, a silver Greek coin. The Greeks believed Athena, the goddess of wisdom, appeared as an image of an owl during the battle to assure them of victory. So, a coin was struck with an owl and a crescent moon behind the owl's head referring to the great battle of Marathon.



News of the the victory was soon carried by a messenger who ran 26 miles from the plains of Marathon to the city of Athens, Greece.

Today, a "marathon" is named for a long distance run, such as the Honolulu Marathon which is held in December, a name taken from Greek history.

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# COIN MAN

By Allen Nakano

Most people know me as the "Coin Man" at the Kam Swap Meet. I have been selling there since 1969. That makes it 30 years today. I started with selling cut bottles, which were made into glasses and mugs that were popular then and later, a lot of odds and ends.

I got into stamps and then coins. I got most of my coins from mail orders as I bought from want ads and such. It wasn't until the mid 70's that I got heavily into coins from my long time and good friend, James Kinoshita, from Downtown Coin Gallery, first going to his shop on Merchant St. and then to the Arcade building on Queen. It was then I got to buy the good but cheap things that people wanted at the swap meet. I'm sure many have started with James at one time or another on coins. He is a real nice, down to earth guy and an honest guy too (other people have also told me).

What's hot at the swap meet these days is what I hear from shoppers and my own experiences. I deal in low grade things like Buffalo nickels, Indian head and wheat pennies, foreign bills and coins, school lunch tokens, Hawaiiana, postcards, Hawaiian and otherwise.

If you have sold merchandise at any of the swap meets, you will know that high grade merchandise is not salable. When I say cheap, I don't mean a coin that is worth \$500.00 but one at a bargain price of a hundred or two less. It may be a steal in one's eye but not at the swap meet. Cheap to me and swap meeters mean high grade at low grade prices. You can't sell a hundred dollar item if you are in a 5 and 10 cent store.

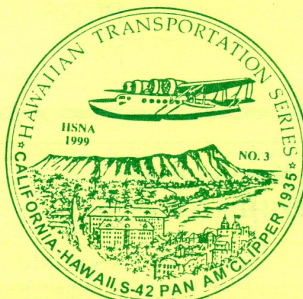
Someone once told me, "Allen, you got to sell better, more high priced merchandise". Well, that person did just once and no more. When he made \$50.00 or so and being in the hot sun all day, it just wasn't worth his time and money. He later got into other more salable things.

I lost my resource when James closed his shop two years ago, and I have gone into other things such as fast food toys and other odds and ends

collectibles. But it's still an open market for coins as well as stamps.

If you want to come out one day and try your luck at the open market, please do. You will never know what is in store for you if you don't try. Come out early, bring food and drinks and don't forget head gear for the hot sun. Only old timers will know if you ask for the "Coin Man". Most vendors are fairly new and they may not know who I am.

"Coin Man" or "Toy Man"; today I'm known to be "The Glassman" NAKANO. HAPPY COIN HUNTING.



## Coming Soon!!

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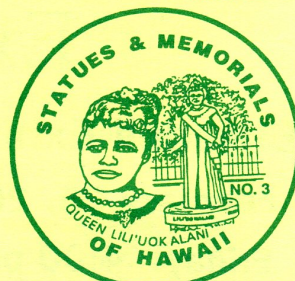
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